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# USE OF FORCE REPORT

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FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
2022





**PATRICK LYNN**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Message from the Chief of Police..... 2
- Executive Summary..... 3
- Introduction..... 4
- 2022 At A Glance..... 5
- Utilized Force..... 6
- Use of Force Efficacy..... 7
- Citizen Resistance..... 8
- Reason for Use of Force..... 9
- Charges Against Citizens..... 10
- Services Rendered & Injuries..... 11
- Calls for Service..... 12
- Demographics..... 13
- How to Make a Complaint.....14
- Senior Staff..... 15

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Neighbors and Visitors,  
 I am honored to represent the women and men, both sworn and civilian, of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, as we continue our efforts to maintain the safety and security of our community. On behalf of our team, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for taking the time to review our Annual Use of Force Report.

As the largest city in Broward County and a popular tourist destination in the State of Florida, our community faces unique challenges that require our unwavering commitment to public safety. We are dedicated to building strong relationships with our neighbors, reducing crime, and enhancing the overall quality of life for all who call our city home.

As we work towards these goals, we invite our community to join us in our efforts to keep our city safe. We are committed to serving you with respect, integrity, and courage, and we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we can make our community a better place for all.

Thank you for your continued support.  
 Sincerely,

Patrick Lynn  
 Chief of Police

# Executive Summary



The Department aims to foster community and establish strong relationships with neighbors in order to decrease crime and disturbances. Additionally, the Department's mission is to ensure a safe and organized environment within the City through the embodiment of professionalism, commitment, and respect for individual dignity. In certain instances where officers are executing their duties, they may encounter individuals who must be detained for investigation or apprehended for breaking the law. Such circumstances may result in resistance, varying from passive non-compliance to hostile and confrontational behavior.

The City of Fort Lauderdale had an estimated population of over 189,000 in 2022 and attracts more than 12 million visitors every year. These numbers continue to grow as the city continues expanding. The city is also known for hosting popular events such as the Tortuga Music Festival, Riptide Music Festival, and Pride Fort Lauderdale on the Beach, to name a few.

The purpose of this report is to promote transparency and establish trust by presenting information about the Department's activities. It provides details on incidents where officers encountered resistance, including the responses employed and their efficacy, associated criminal charges, and additional pertinent data.

In 2022, the Office of Internal Affairs conducted an administrative review of 274 use of force incidents compared to 635 reports reviewed in 2021. This reduction is in large part a result of changes made to the policy 119.1 (Response to Resistance) whereas the pointing of a firearm was reclassified as a "show of force" and no longer considered a use of force.

Calls for service increased during 2022 by 8.1%, which accounted for 56% of the service being performed during the use of force incident. Although calls for service continue to increase citywide, the Department is striving to reduce conflicts that may lead to use of force to perform their law enforcement duties.

The leading response to resistance was "hands/fists", which was used 320 times, making up 66% of the total. This category is inclusive of any physical contact an officer makes with their hands ranging from handcuffing to escorting and physical strikes.



# Introduction

This report aims to provide an overview of the incidents in which officers encountered resistance and their corresponding responses. The Department's sworn personnel have undergone comprehensive in-service training that emphasizes de-escalation, Fair and Impartial Policing, Crisis Intervention (CIT), and Procedural Justice. Both sworn and civilian staff receive training in Procedural Justice and the Art of Connecting. Procedural Justice pertains to the principle of equitability in the procedures and conduct exhibited by police officers when interacting with community members. It comprises four key elements:

- Treat others with respect and dignity
- Give a voice
- Be neutral and transparent as a decision-maker
- Convey trustworthy motives as a decision-maker

Youth and community focus groups continue to be an integral part of the Department's community outreach efforts. The purpose of youth focus groups is to address the issue of overrepresentation of minority youth in Florida's juvenile justice system, while the community focus groups, also known as Chief's Focus Groups, bring together community members and leaders to discuss their areas of concern with the chief of police. These provide Department staff a better understanding of the many variables to consider during contact with an individual.

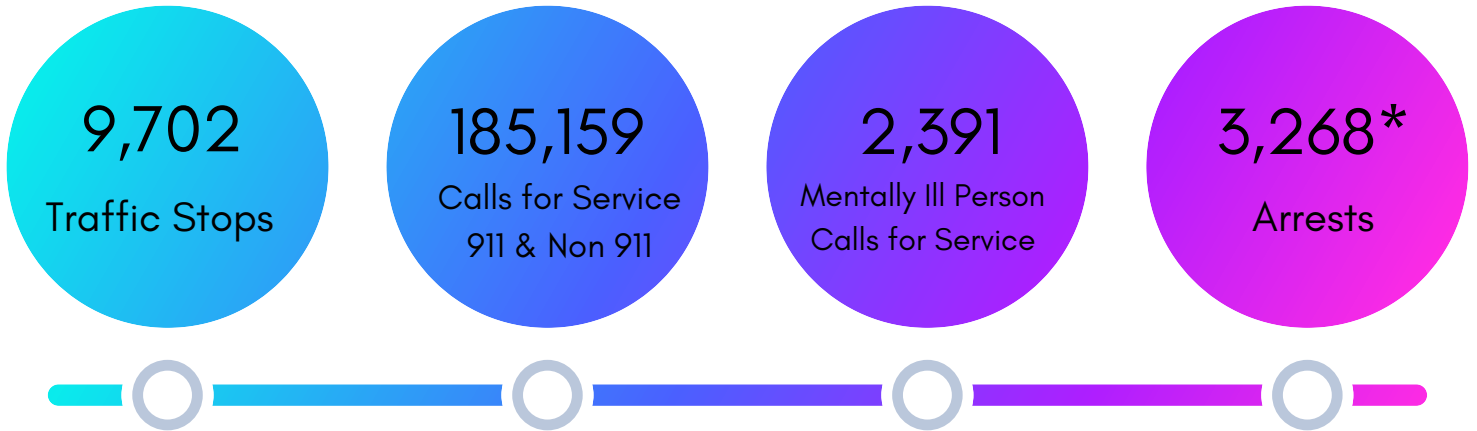
Body worn cameras are in use to increase the ability of officers to effectively enforce the law, obtain evidence for criminal prosecutions, and document interactions with the public. The cameras increase departmental transparency and improve conduct by all parties during police/public interactions.

In 2022, calls for service (911 and Non-911) increased from 2021 to a total of 185,159. Additionally, officers self-initiated 49,280 calls for service while on proactive patrols. The Office of Internal Affairs conducted 274 administrative reviews of use of force incidents. These incidents accounted for 0.11% of calls for service.

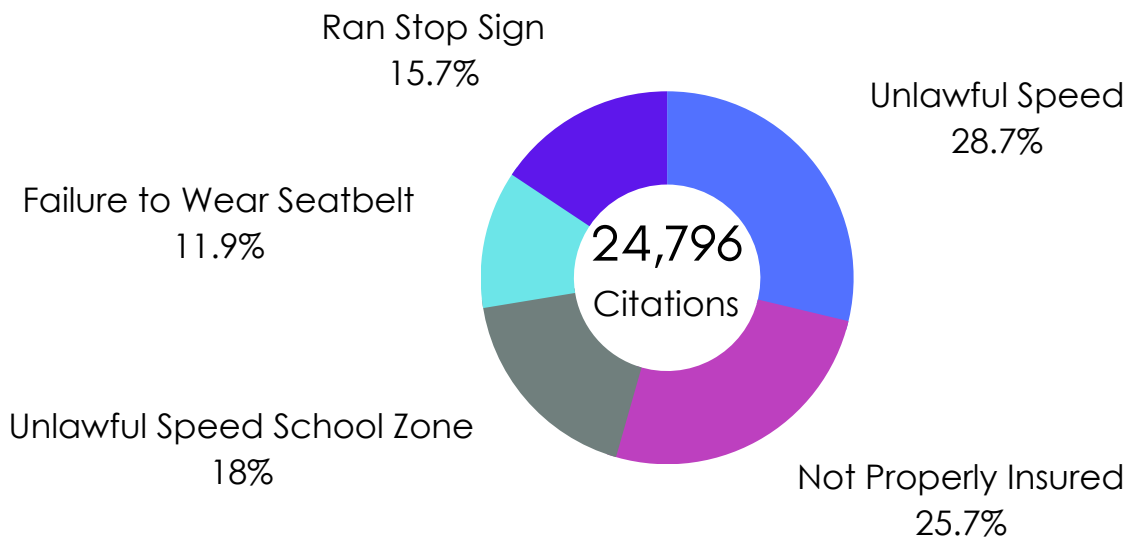
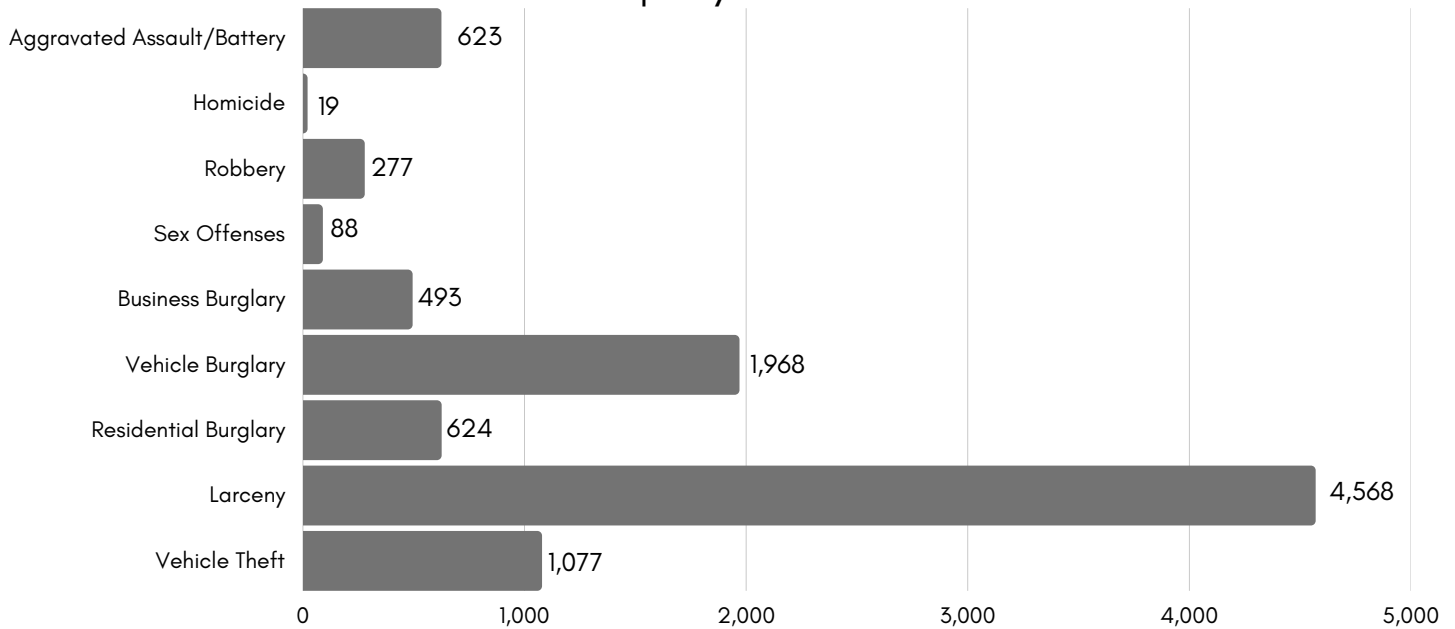




# 2022 AT-A-GLANCE



## Property Crimes

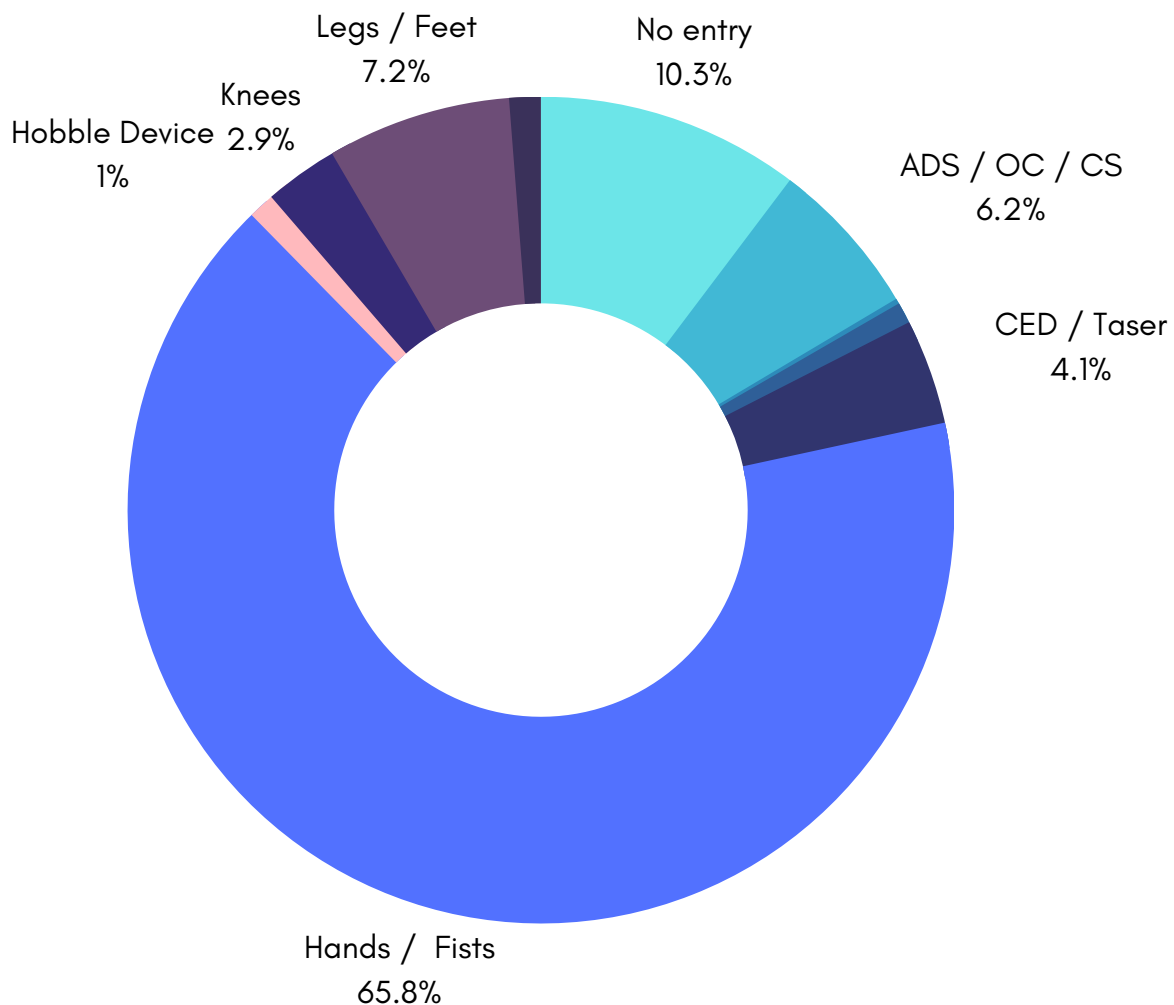




# Utilized Force

A total of 486 responses were used by officers when resistance was encountered. The use of force total decreased 53% from 2021. This reduction is largely due to a change in policy reclassifying the display of a firearm to gain compliance as a "show of force" instead of use of force. The use of hands and fists accounted for almost 65.8% of the force used throughout 2022.

Legs and feet made up 7.2% of all types of force utilized, while Oleoresin Capsicum (ADS, OC, CS), also known as pepper spray, was used in 6.2% of incidents. Conducted Energy Devices or tasers were used in 4.1% of use of force incidents. Of note, over 10% of incidents did not have an entry on the type of force used. This may be due to an upgrade to the current records management system during 2022.

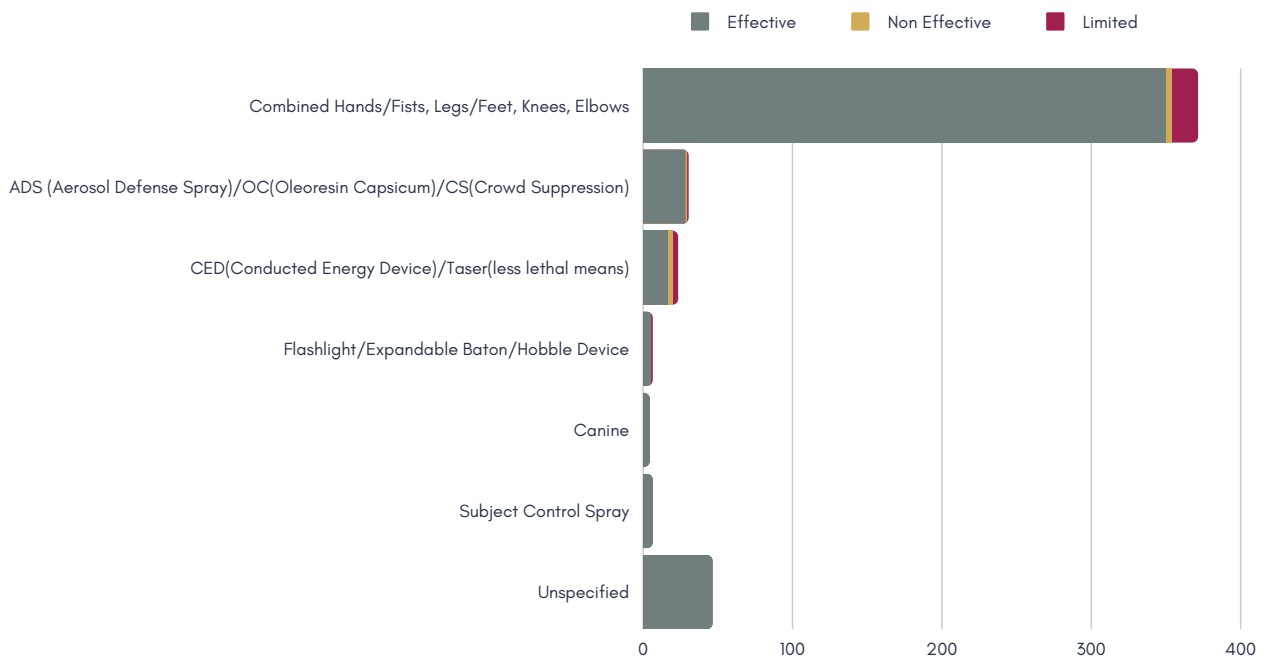




# Use of Force Efficacy

Throughout the course of an officer's duties, resistance may be encountered in many forms from verbal to physical. While officers are trained to de-escalate these types of situations, they may from time to time need to utilize one or more of the responses above. The use of hands/fists, legs/feet, elbows or knees, proved effective in bringing the subject under control 94% of the time while almost 5% had a limited effect.

There was a significant decrease in the use of ADS, combined hands/fists, and the use of K-9 from 2021. All other efficacy rates remained similar to 2021.



Method	Effective	Non-Effective	Limited
Combined Hands/Fists, Legs/Feet, Knees, Elbows	349	4	18
ADS(aerosol defense spray)/OC (Oleoresin Capsicum)	28	1	1
CED (Conducted Energy Device)/Taser	16	3	4
Flashlight/Expandable Baton/Hobble Device	5	0	1
Canine	4	0	0
Subject Control Spray	6	0	0
Unspecified	46	0	0



# Citizen Resistance

The Department's policy on response to resistance entails that officers should solely employ a level of response necessary to achieve lawful objectives. To ascertain if the response level is reasonable, three factors are taken into account:

1. How serious is the suspected offense?
2. Is there a physical threat to the officer or anyone else?
3. Is the individual actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest by flight?

In 2021, the top reason for response was due to a subject's physical resistance encountered by the officer. Fifty four percent (54%) of subjects physically resisted the officer. Almost 9% of the subjects were actively resisting the officer and over 11% were using passive physical means, for example, going limp when the officer came in contact.

Black subjects made up 57% of subjects that resisted and White subjects made up 20%. The number of subjects that identified as Hispanic/Latino increased from 4% in 2021 to 17% in 2022.

Males made up 74% while females made up 20%. Both males and females were more likely to resist in an active physical manner.

Citizen Resistance By Race

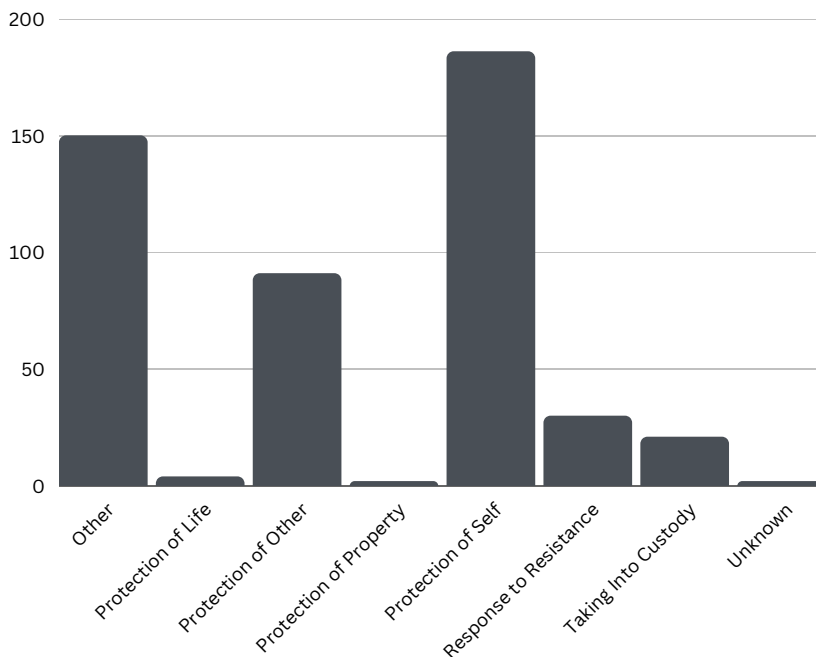
	Unknown	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Grand Total
Active Physical	4	0	95	32	1	26	158
Active Resistance	1	0	16	2	0	6	25
Aggressive Physical	0	0	2	2	0	1	5
Non Verbal Cues	0	0	9	0	0	1	10
Officer Safety	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
Passive Physical	1	0	18	7	0	7	33
Passive Resistance	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Suspected Felon	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Suspected Weapon	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Unknown	11	0	10	6	1	10	38
Verbal	0	0	12	0	0	3	15
Grand Total	17	0	166	50	2	57	292

Citizen Resistance By Sex/Gender

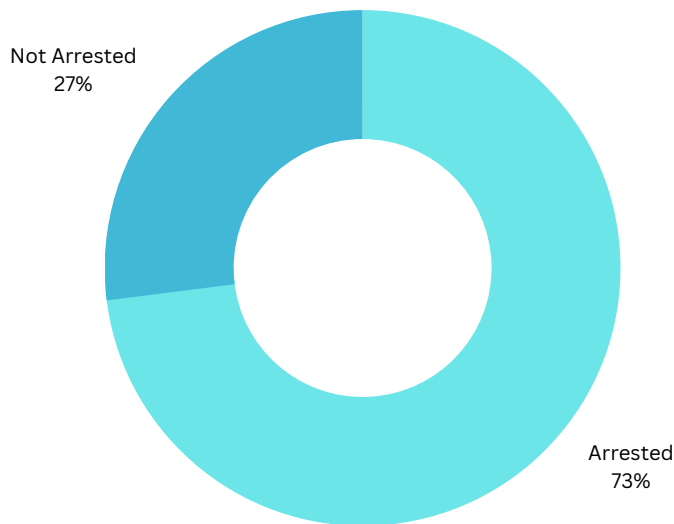
	Female	Male	Unknown	Grand Total
Active Physical	30	126	2	158
Active Resistance	2	22	1	25
Aggressive Physical	0	5	0	5
Non Verbal Cues	2	8	0	10
Officer Safety	1	2	0	3
Passive Physical	5	28	0	33
Passive Resistance	0	1	0	1
Suspected Felon	1	1	0	2
Suspected Weapon	1	1	0	2
Unknown	10	15	13	38
Verbal	7	8	0	15
Grand Total	59	217	16	292

# Reason for Use of Force

In 2022, the top reason for use of force was self defense, making up 38% (184) of reasons. The category of "other" was used as a reason in 31% of the total. Of note, each officer involved in one incident may have had a different reason for the use of force, therefore the total of 486 was utilized because it takes into account all officers involved in the incident reviewed.



In 73% of the incidents reviewed, the subject was arrested, while in 27% the subject was not. It is the officer's discretion to perform an arrest after encountering any type of resistance.

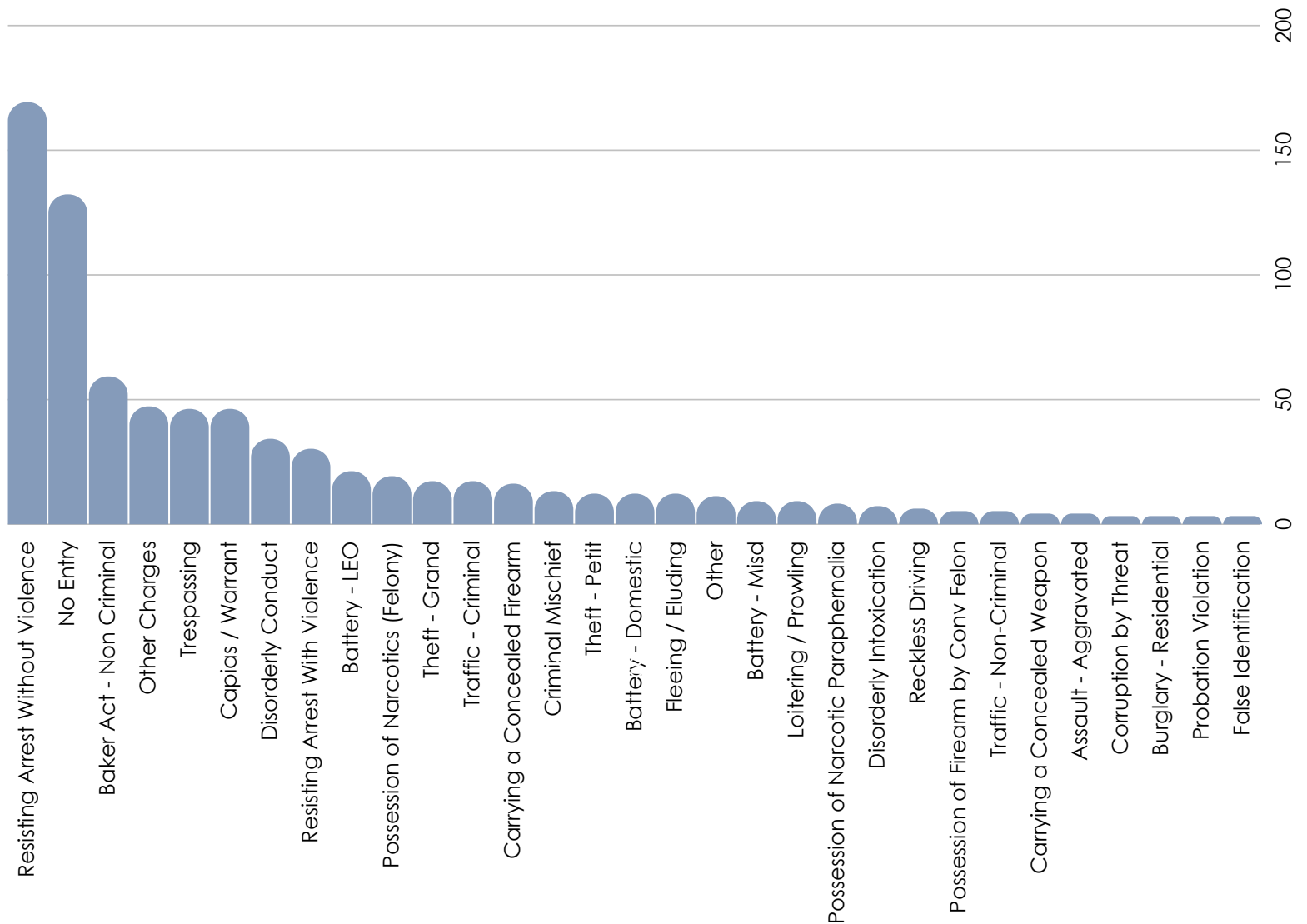




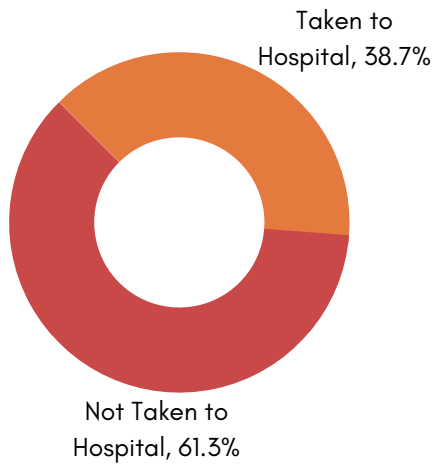
# Charges Against Citizens

The graph illustrates the charges filed for the 274 use of force incidents reviewed in 2022. A total of 782 charges were filed in these incidents. Resisting arrest without violence was the leading charge, making up almost 22% (169) of all charges. Almost 17% (132) did not contain information on charges, which could be attributed to the upgrade of the use of force records management system.

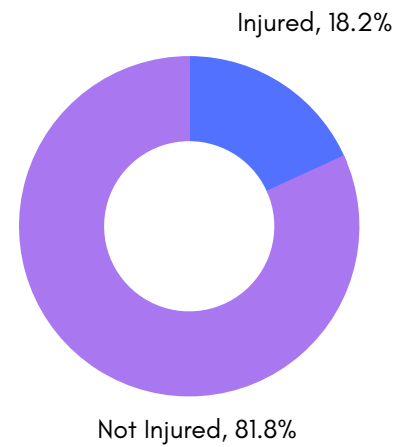
Baker acts made up 7.5% of the charges that were filed and trespassing, warrants, and other categorized charges made up almost 6% each.



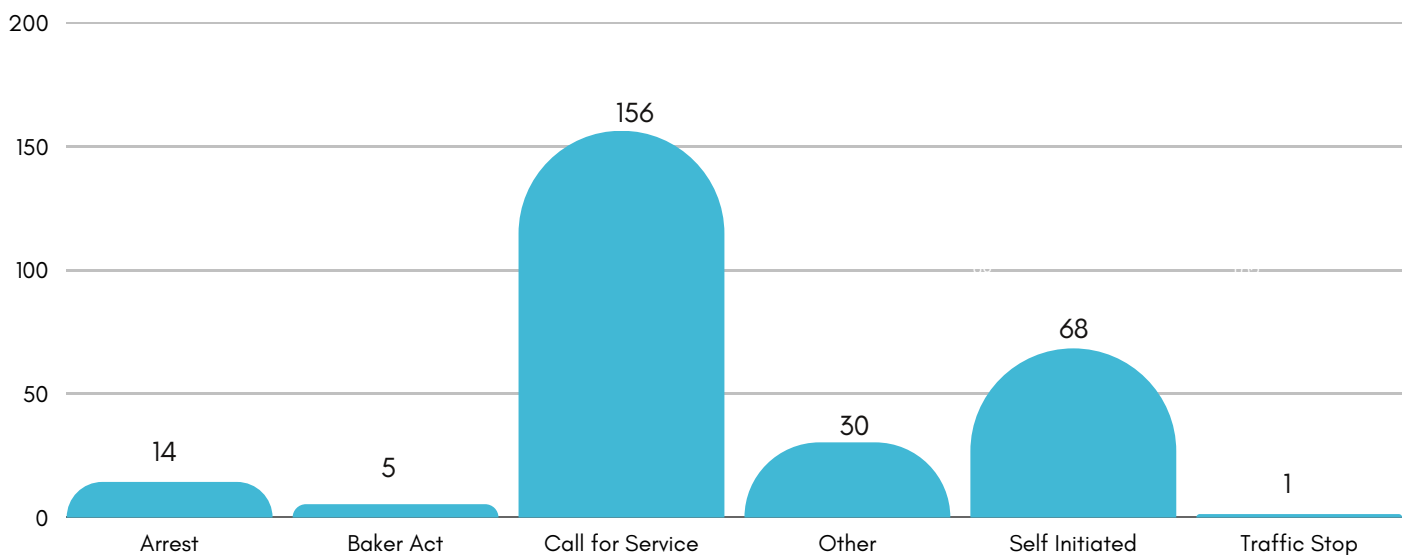
# Services Rendered & Injuries



From the total 292 subjects that force was used on, 53 subjects were injured while 239 did not receive any injuries. A total of 113 went to the hospital and 179 did not.



Services being rendered at the time of use of force are illustrated in the graph below. In more than half of the incidents reviewed, the officer(s) was responding to a call for service. In these incidents, the officer encountered a situation in which the officer had to use an appropriate level of force. In 25% of the incidents, the officer(s) was actively patrolling when they self-initiated a call for service. Baker acts accounted for less than 2% in 2022 compared to 13% in 2021. Arrests made up 5% of all incidents.





# Calls for Service

Fort Lauderdale is divided into three police districts (1, 2, 3) with varying population sizes. As of 2020, District 1 has the largest population, accounting for 40% of the city's total population and 34.5% of 911 and non-emergency line calls for service originated in this district in 2022. District 3 houses 37% of the population and made up 34.1% of calls for service, while District 2 has the smallest population with only 23% and it made up 31.2% of calls. Less than 1% (0.3%) of calls for service did not contain geographical data, therefore it could not be determined where the calls for service originated. The Downtown Fort Lauderdale area, located in District 3, has the highest density of calls for service. Note that areas without color on the map do not necessarily mean no calls for service were received; rather, the calls received from those areas were not statistically significant compared to the rest of the city.

In Figure 2, the density of response to resistance shares similar characteristics to that of calls for service density in Figure 1. A high density of incidents requiring responses to resistance occurred in the downtown area mainly along the areas that host the city's nightlife (clubs and bars). As mentioned above, District 2 has the lowest overall calls for service; however, in proportion to its population, it generates a high volume of 911 and non-emergency calls for service.

Fig. 1

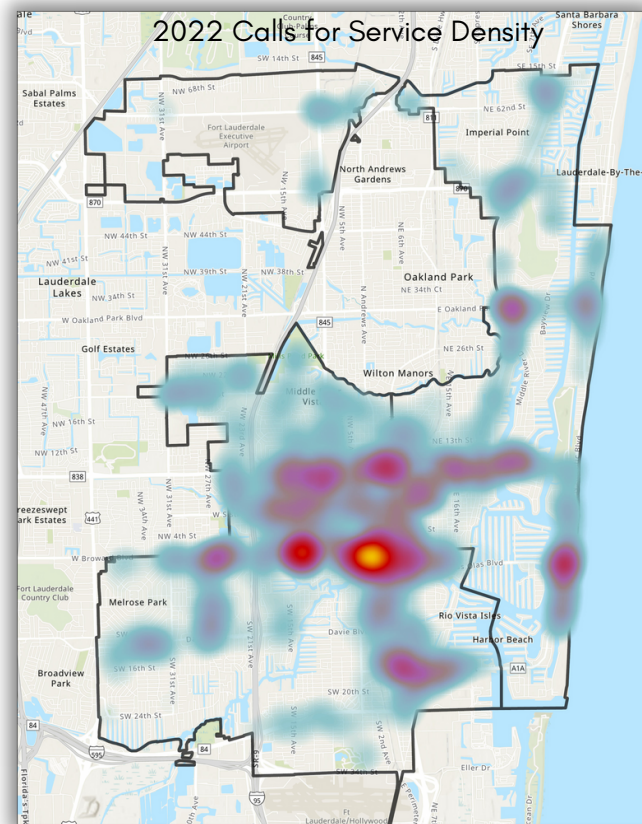
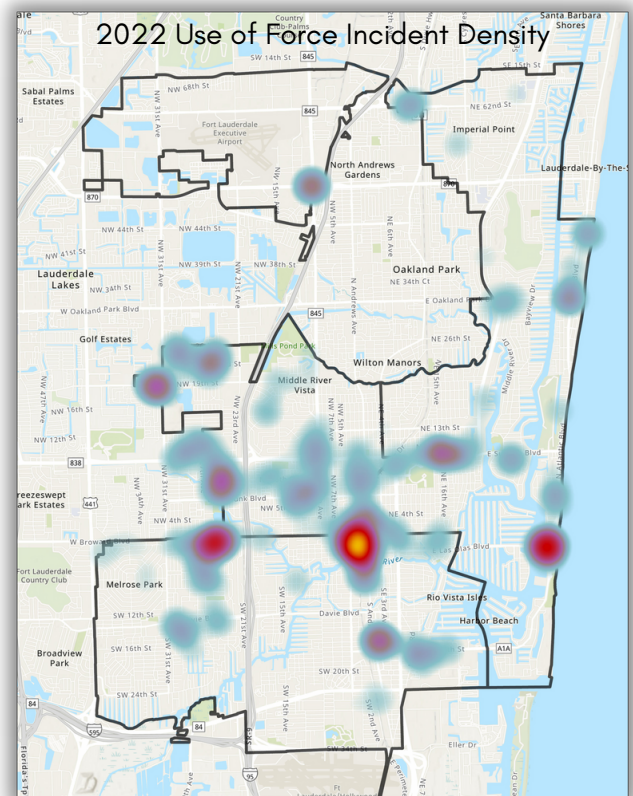


Fig. 2

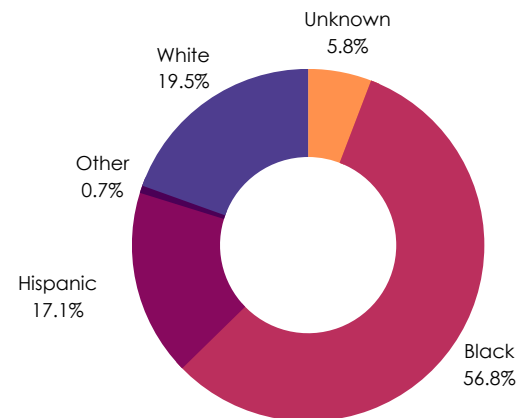
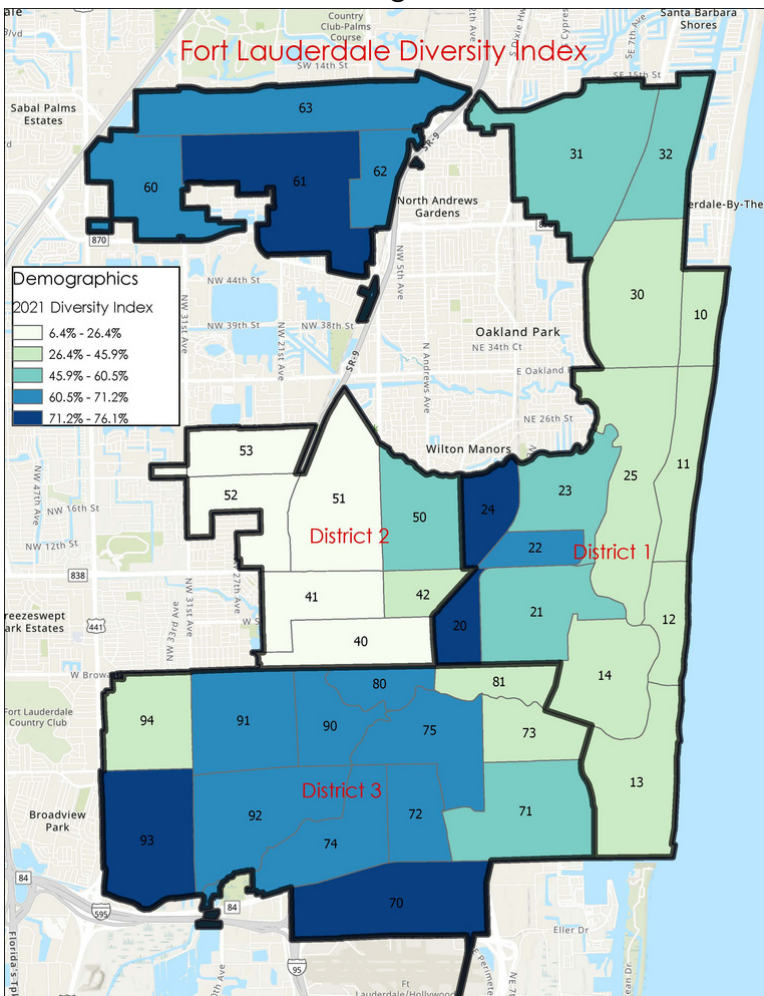


# Demographics

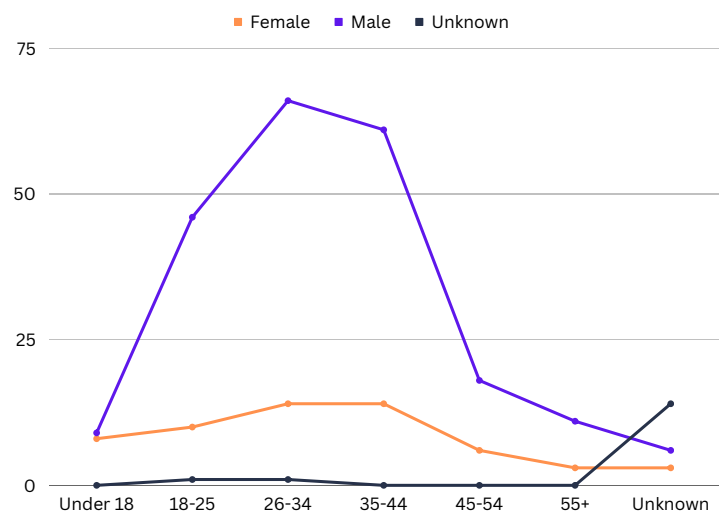
Figure 3 illustrates ESRI's Diversity Index<sup>1</sup> by police zones in the city. The Diversity Index represents the likelihood that two persons, chosen at random from the same area, belong to a different race or ethnic group. The Index is a continuum that ranges between 0 (no diversity) to 100 (complete diversity). District 1 and the south section of District 2 have a lower Diversity Index compared to District 3, in which more police zones have a higher diversity index.

The pie chart below demonstrates the breakdown of subjects by race that received a response to resistance. Over 56% of subjects were Black and over 19% were White. A race or ethnicity wasn't captured for almost 6% of subjects. The overrepresentation of Black and Latino subjects can be attributed to the locations in which calls for service are received. There are higher densities of 911 and non emergency calls for service in predominantly minority areas of the city.

Fig. 3



Male and female subjects between the ages of 26-34 resisted at a higher rate than other age groups. Subjects between the ages of 18 and 25 resisted at a lower rate than subjects between 35 and 44 years of age.



1. <https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=cdcf9887d5a19469c8255fcddcd173445>



# Making a Complaint

## How do I make a complaint?

Complaints can be made in person, via telephone, or by e-mail directly to the Office of Internal Affairs (IA) or any Department employee. Complaints concerning discourtesy or inadequate services will generally be forwarded to the employee's command for investigation. The investigation will then be thoroughly reviewed by IA. Complaints concerning unnecessary or excessive force, false arrests, and complaints that are criminal in nature will be retained by IA for investigation. In most situations, a sworn, taped statement will be requested. Be prepared to provide the investigator with witness information and other evidence that documents the complaint. You will be treated professionally and with courtesy.

All complaints will be thoroughly examined. There are five possible dispositions:

- Not Sustained – There is insufficient evidence to confirm or refute the complaint.
- Sustained – The allegation is true. The actions of our employee was inconsistent with the agency's policy.
- Exonerated – The allegation is true, however, the action of our employee was justified and/or consistent with the agency's policy.
- Unfounded – The allegation is either false or there is no credible evidence to support it.
- Policy Failure – A finding or conclusion that current policies, procedures, rules or regulations covering the situation were non-existent or inadequate; or the employee followed policy but the investigation reveals policy changes are recommended.

All decisions involving disciplinary action will be made in conjunction with the City's Labor Relations Office and the City Manager's Office. Complaints that involve a possible criminal violation are sent to the Broward County State Attorney's Office for review. Once these processes are complete, select cases are sent to the Citizen's Police Review Board for their review and recommendation



### **Mailing Address:**

Fort Lauderdale Police Department  
Office of Internal Affairs  
1300 West Broward Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

### **Email:**

InternalAffairs@fortlauderdale.gov

### **Office Location:**

255 NE 3rd Ave  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

### **Complaint/Compliment Line:**

(954)828-6956

# Senior Command Staff



Luis Alvarez  
Assistant Chief  
Investigations



Doug McDougall  
Assistant Chief  
Support Services



Dana Swisher  
Assistant Chief  
Operations



Victor London  
Major/Executive Officer  
Office of the Chief



Eric Brogna  
Major  
Support Services



Lynette Falzone  
Major  
Investigations



Rick Maglione  
Major  
Operations



William Schultz  
Major  
Operations

## City Leadership

Dean J. Trantalis  
Mayor

John C. Herbst  
Commissioner  
District 1

Steven Glassman  
Commissioner  
District 2

Pamela Beasley-Pittman  
Vice Mayor/Commissioner  
District 3

Warren Sturman  
Commissioner  
District 4

Greg Chavarria  
City Manager

D'Wayne Spence  
Interim City Attorney

Patrick Reilly  
City Auditor

David R. Soloman  
City Clerk





Fort Lauderdale Police Department  
1300 W. Broward Blvd.  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312  
[www.flpd.org](http://www.flpd.org)

